

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of January 9, 2009 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 16-20 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 21-23 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 16 as containing an informality. However, as indicated above, it is noted that claim 16 has been cancelled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objection to claim 16 is rendered moot.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. However, as indicated above, it is noted that claims 16-20 have been cancelled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is rendered moot.

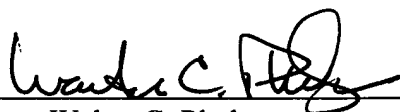
On pages 3-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luderer et al. (US 3,937,401). However, as indicated above, it is noted that claims 16-20 have been cancelled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is rendered moot.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 21-23 are allowed. In view of the cancellation of claims 16-20, it is noted that claims 21-23 are the only claims currently pending in this application. Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's indication that claims 21-23 are allowed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Takuya MATSUMOTO et al.

By: 

Walter C. Pledger
Registration No. 55,540
Attorney for Applicants

WCP/lkd
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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